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Agenda item 2

**Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner
for Human Rights and reports of the Office of the
High Commissioner and the Secretary-General**

Written statement* submitted by the Organization for Defending Victims of Violence, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31:

[22 January 2018]

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- * This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

GE.18-01495(E)



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Interactive Dialogue with the High Commissioner Human Rights Situation in Yemen, Myanmar and OPT (Occupied Palestinian Territories)

In line with the annual report presented by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the situation of human rights around the world, the Organization for Defending Victims of Violence (ODVV) would like to express its concerns over the continuous conflicts in Yemen, the consequences of the long term occupation of OPT (Occupied Palestinian Territories) and the persistent atrocities in Myanmar.

Yemen

The statistics of 1000 day of Yemen war looks quite hideous. The death toll amounts to about 14,000, including about 3000 children while another 3000 children are injured. There are also indirect effects of the conflict including the spread of cholera epidemic which has addicted 940 thousand¹ and taken the lives of more than 2300².

The steady war in Yemen has also lead to the displacement of about 3 million people and destruction of infrastructures, including "827 schools and educational institutions, 118 academic units, 30 media centers, 301 hospitals and health centers, 1,684 government centers, 174 power plants, 524 sources and water supply networks, 387 communication networks and 106 sports facilities, 15 airports, 14 ports, 2144 roads and bridges, 3378 vehicles, 548 food stores, 251 fuel tankers, 593 commercial markets, 300 factories, 337 gas stations, 692 warehouses, 245 poultry and cattle"³.

- A review of the data on Yemen shows that the majority of the sites destructed in Yemen had been targeted by the Coalition invasions. Being seriously concerned about the humanitarian tragedies in Yemen, ODVV calls on the Security Council to use its political power and urge all Yemen parties to resort to political solutions to the conflict and also prevent Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates to stop killing of civilians and destruction of city infrastructures in Yemen.
- Also ODVV urges the members of the international community to contribute to the Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan fund so that the plan can reach the 124 million people it was supposed to support while the population in urgent need of humanitarian help is estimated to be a staggering 22 million people⁵.

Myanmar

Myanmar atrocities continue unabated despite the serious concerns expressed by UN experts and State officials condemning the crimes and the UN repeated calls on the government to end military operations. The catastrophic displacement of 600,000 Muslim Rohingya, continuous killings of thousands of Rohingya⁶ and other crimes including rape, torture and arson reported by eye witnesses have forced huge numbers to flee to Bangladesh.

Stressing the responsibility of Myanmar government to protect its population against mass killings; echoing the frequent calls of the United Nations especially the President of the Security Council⁷; and expressing grave concerns over the persistent crimes against the Rohingya, ODVV calls on Myanmar government to:

- Ensure the access for a U.N. fact-finding mission to the region.
- End the atrocities and excessive use of military force against Rohingya in the country.

1. <http://whatsupic.com/index/how-many-people-in-yemen-died-over/>

2. <http://www.straitstimes.com/world/middle-east/115-dead-as-yemen-cholera-outbreak-spreads-icrc>

3. previous source

4. www.bbc.com/news/av/.../eighty-per-cent-of-yemen-s-population-in-need-of-aid-un

5. https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&ct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=3&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwys56EscrYAhUzmMKHcUCB24QFgg_MAI&url=https%3A%2F%2Freliefweb.int%2Freport%2Fyemen%2Fstatement-humanitarian-organizations-yemen-allegations-corruption-and-bias-provision&usq=AOvVaw0gHEocaBCFBaqs8aV6b-hv

6. <http://www.cnn.com/2017/12/14/asia/myanmar-rohingya-msf-intl/index.html>

7. <https://www.un.org/press/en/2017/sc13055.doc.htm>

- Implement the recommendations by the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State and the United Nations suggested mechanisms to assist the return of the displaced Rohingya to their homes, guaranteeing their security and ensuring their access to humanitarian aid.
- In addition, ODVV calls on the Security Council to use its political power and to urge the Myanmar government to end the ongoing atrocities, and ensure non-recurrence of the violence by bringing perpetrators of the crimes to justice and addressing the root causes through elimination of discrimination against the Rohingya minority.

Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT)

In the OPT, the unending tragedy is reflected in the deteriorating situation of human rights in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and Gaza. In Gaza, the severe electricity crisis has negatively affected hospitals and medical facilities, violating the people's right to life and right to health, although the announcement about the resumption of power supplies to Gaza sounds to be promising⁸. There is serious lack of clean water and the related infrastructures as well as the unhealthy discharge of untreated sewage into the Mediterranean Sea, in a way that, only humanitarian interventions of the international organizations could prevent "the complete collapse of the health sector" during previous periods of crises.⁹ This is while, the travel restrictions, set by Israel, limits the patient's vital access to medical care, adding to the complexity of the situation and jeopardizing the right to life in the region for those who have to seek medical treatment abroad.

In the West Bank and East Jerusalem, construction of new settlements and demolition and eviction of Palestinian's homes has shattered any hope for a peaceful solution in addition to violation of the Palestinians right to freedom of movement, right to education, right to health, right to land and natural resources and the right to development.

The illegality of the long term Israel occupation under international law is proven in the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, Michael Lynk, on October 2017¹⁰.

- Noting the Special Rapporteur's valuable report, ODVV echoes the recommendations offered by the Special Rapporteur to Israel to stop¹¹ the 50 - years occupation of OPT.
- In line with the recommendations offered by the Special Rapporteur on OPT, ODVV also urges the United Nations General Assembly to mandate a United Nations study to investigate the legality of Israel's continued occupation of OPT.

⁸ <https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory-un-human-rights-experts-welcome-resumption-power-supplies-gaza>

⁹ According to World Health Organization (WHO)

¹⁰ A/72/556

¹¹ Previous source